

ERS President Dave Baine called the Hybrid/ Zoom meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. to allow those at SPEEA HQ time for eating

Guest Speaker: **Rick Faunt**, a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Washington State Association hearingloss-wa.org since the mid-1990's and retired 25-year Boeing Numerical Control Technician. His presentation covered some misperceptions of dementia and the effects of hearing loss on dementia as well as the recent availability of OTC, over-the-counter, hearing aids and features to look for. He described how hearing loss can lead to embarrassment, avoidance or withdrawal from conversations or talking too much and domineering behavior. It can lead to decreased socialization, loss of relationships or employment and creates dependence on loved ones. He discussed negative coping techniques such as bluffing/smiling or pretending you heard, blaming others for not talking loud enough or accusing them of 'hiding' their conversation or not wanting you to hear. Hearing loss behaviors can easily be mistaken for dementia and can contribute to dementia. He compared OTC hearing aids to 'cheater'/reading glasses and recommended 'fitted' hearing aids which boost customized frequencies for those with more serious hearing loss.

Special Order of Business: Jim Ewing received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his many years of dedicated service as Secretary of ERS signed by President Dave Baine along with a \$100 gift card.

Secretary's Report: Jessica Bonebright's minutes of our June 1, 2023 membership meeting were approved as published.

President's Report: Dave Baine reported on rolling over our CDs at BECU for a higher yield. We're still looking into renewal of our IRS non-profit status. National Retiree Legislative Network, NRLN, is planning a fly-in September 23-27 in WA DC. ERS will not be sending a representative even though it's a budgeted item. None of the ERS members who participate in SPEEA Legislative and Public Affairs committees were available to attend.

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported ERS balances are: Checking \$2079.60; Savings \$5,351.17 and CD's \$33,373.89 for a total of \$60,894.08 (in March we reported a total of \$60,413.26) Our budgeted items haven't been as high as expected. We had saved on food expenses while we were not meeting in person.

Steering Board Chair: Dwight Rousu reported our ERS newsletter was emailed but a couple of problems, it's shorter and has no lighter side and it's on our website. The steering board met for last week.

Committee and Rep Reports

Badges: Roger Aisaka has agreed to be our new badges chair and will have badges for our next meeting December 7th. He reported there were 27 in-person attendees and 4 joining via ZOOM

Communications: Walt Ditlefsen reported he's working to clean up our email distribution list especially bounces and people who have 'unsubscribed.' He's also working with John Neller to see if there are people who are receiving paper copies of our newsletter who would be willing to switch to an e-mail copy to save the expense and effort of printing and mailing newsletters.

Finance: Steve Ellis as reported earlier, our CDs were rolled over for higher returns.

Insurance chair: Position is open. John Neller reported it's time to get your flu shot. You may also want an RSV shot. Both were fully covered – he's on Medicare with the Boeing supplement. Dave Baine added he's got an appointment to get the new COVID booster.

Investments: Dave Watt investments meetings are 3rd Thursdays of odd months. Next meeting will be hybrid (in person and zoom) on Sept. 21 with speaker Stephen Lach of TD Ameritrade. On Nov. 16 were planning to have ERS member Emit Omar speak about his system of reviewing and buying funds. He charts impressive returns.

Program: Dave Watt reported Jared Adams estate planning lawyer will speak at our December 7 hybrid meeting. He previously spoke to us about changes for estate planning at federal & state level. It was well received. Everyone should plan to be here since most of us don't know enough about it..

Membership: John Neller reported we have 932 ERS members, 695 have paid dues for 2022 or 2023. John brought a membership list printout – if your contact information may have changed, please check with John to assure we have your correct email, phone and address.

National Retiree Legislative Network: Dwight Rousu reported NRLN is eager for more members, they've invited Boeing Management Association to join and there's a solicitation in our newsletter. The September fly-in will not have ERS representatives nor Judy Stenberg, Chair: Legislative Affairs, NRLN VP - Pacific Region from Bellevue WA. See email messages or the NRLN website for more information.

Nominations and Elections: Steve Ellis reported elections for VP, Treasurer & Steering Board Chair will be held at our Dec. 7 meeting. Contact Steve if you'd like to step up. Dwight added he'd like to find a replacement for his position.

Pensions: Position is open – please contact Dave Baine if you'd be willing to watch for changes and keep ERS informed.

Service: Dick Beham wasn't at this meeting but the Bluebills newsletter went out recently.

Social & Refreshments: John Meeker arranged to have our pizza delivered. He's joining by phone for health reasons. Steve Ellis picked up our cake honoring James Ewing. They will survey members via email about food suggestions for the future.

Legislative & Public Affairs: Dwight Rousu reported 3 or 4 ERS members attend the monthly SPEEA NW & national L&PA meetings – all ERS members are welcome.

Sunshine: Myrv and Joan Johansen reported three members who have passed away: Charles (Chuck) Van Valkenberg passed away in 2022 at age 92. A message was added to the Seattle Times obituary notice. Edward C Woods passed away June 1 2023 at age 80. We sent a sympathy card to his wife Deloris. Paul C Piguet passed away about 2020 we couldn't find any further information.

Travel: John Neller reported airfares and hotel rates are up, but there are fewer problems with lost luggage due to airtag tracking devices.

No reports this meeting for: Vice President Ellis, Finance, Governing Documents or SPEEA/ERS Liaison

New business: Jim Jollimore recommends attending Bluebill meetings. Usually 10am the last Friday of month at VFW hall – Dick Beham & Jim Ewing are also regular participants.

Next membership meeting is Thursday December 7, noon.

Adjourned 2:18

Minutes by Jessica Bonebright, secretary